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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 656-4068

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PROGRAM The Daily Drum

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SUBJECT New Government Plot/Nigeria

FLOYD DONALD: The American Central Intelligence Agency, or the CIA, has been accused again of plotting to install a new government in Western Africa, this time in Nigeria.

Correspondent Terry Mphahlele has that story.

TERRY MPHACHELE: Two leading opposition newspapers in Nigeria made that accusation on Wednesday. Both publications said the American Central Intelligence Agency is plotting to assassinate two national political figures before this year's general elections. But the US embassy in Lagos has rejected the charges as irresponsible and totally untrue.

The Nigerian Tribune and the Daily Sketch published documents referring to the CIA plan, namely, to get rid of opposition chief Obassimi Awolowa [?] and leading businessman Chief Mkao Abulam [?] in order to lessen the chances of opposition victory against President Sherwoo Shagary [?] and his National Party.

The Tribune and Daily Sketch published almost identical versions of the documents, which also referred to the creation of a premise to install a friendly military government in Nigeria. The document also referred to a random purge of the present corrupt federal administration. And the key element of the plot was, quote, "the decoupling of Nigeria from Britain." Nigerian authorities say they are investigating.

Recently, a senior Ghanaian official accused the CIA of

plotting against Head-of-State Flight Lieutenant Gerry Rollins.

I'm Terry Mphahlele for WHUR News.